

In re: Gehring et al.
Serial No.: 10/696,158
Filed: October 29, 2003
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In the Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A vehicle instrument panel, comprising:
a storage drawer slidably mounted to the instrument panel and movable within a cavity of the instrument panel between closed and open positions, wherein the drawer comprises a floor, a front wall, a rear wall opposite the front wall, and side walls that extend between the front and rear walls in spaced-apart relationship to define a storage compartment for receiving items therein; and
a tray slidably secured to the storage drawer and movable between a hidden position within the instrument panel cavity and an exposed position when the storage drawer is in an open position, wherein the tray comprises one or more receptacles for receiving items therein, and wherein the tray is operably connected to the storage drawer such that movement of the storage drawer from the closed position to a partially open position causes the tray to move to the exposed position.
2. (Cancelled)
3. (Currently Amended) The instrument panel of Claim 1, further comprising a stop positioned within the instrument panel cavity, and wherein the stop maintains the tray in the exposed position as the storage drawer continues to move from the partially open position to a fully open position.
4. (Original) The instrument panel of Claim 3, wherein the stop comprises a member that is configured to releasably grip a portion of the tray.
5. (Original) The instrument panel of Claim 1, wherein the tray is configured to be selectively attached to the storage drawer such that movement of the storage drawer to a fully open position causes the tray to be moved to its exposed position.

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6. (Original) The instrument panel of Claim 5, further comprising an actuator operably associated with the tray and that is movable between first and second positions, wherein, when the actuator is in the first position, user movement of the storage drawer to an extended position causes movement of the tray to the exposed position, and wherein, when the actuator is in the second position, movement of the tray is independent of user movement of the storage drawer.
7. (Original) The instrument panel of Claim 6, wherein the actuator comprises a switch mounted on the tray.
8. (Original) The instrument panel of Claim 1, wherein the storage drawer front wall comprises a front surface with a handle, and wherein the handle is configured to be grasped by a user to facilitate movement of the storage drawer between open and closed positions.
9. (Original) The instrument panel of Claim 1, wherein the one or more receptacles are cup holders.
10. (Original) The instrument panel of Claim 1, wherein the storage drawer front wall is substantially flush with a front portion of the instrument panel when the storage drawer is in the closed position.
11. (Original) The instrument panel of Claim 1, wherein the storage drawer side walls include respective upper edge portions, and wherein the tray is slidably secured to the upper edge portions of the side walls.
12. (Original) The instrument panel of Claim 1, wherein the storage drawer side walls include respective upper edge portions, and wherein the tray is removably secured to the upper edge portions of the side walls.

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13. (Original) The instrument panel of Claim 1, wherein the tray is removably secured to the storage drawer and can be removed from the storage drawer by a user.

14. (Original) A vehicle instrument panel, comprising:
a storage drawer slidably mounted to the instrument panel and movable within a cavity of the instrument panel between closed and open positions, wherein the drawer comprises a floor, a front wall, a rear wall opposite the front wall, and side walls that extend between the front and rear walls in spaced-apart relationship to define a storage compartment for receiving items therein; and

a tray slidably secured to the storage drawer and movable between a hidden position within the instrument panel cavity and an exposed position, wherein the tray comprises one or more receptacles for receiving items therein, wherein the tray is selectively connected to the storage drawer via a user-activatable actuator such that movement of the storage drawer from the closed position to a partially open position causes the tray to move to the exposed position.

15. (Original) The instrument panel of Claim 14, further comprising a stop positioned within the instrument panel cavity, and wherein the stop maintains the tray in the exposed position as the storage drawer continues to move from the partially open position to a fully open position.

16. (Original) The instrument panel of Claim 15, wherein the stop comprises a member that is configured to releasably grip a portion of the tray.

17. (Original) The instrument panel of Claim 14, wherein the actuator is movable between first and second positions, wherein, when the actuator is in the first position, user movement of the storage drawer to an extended position causes movement of the tray to the exposed position, and wherein, when the actuator is in the second position, movement of the tray is independent of user movement of the storage drawer.

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18. (Original) The instrument panel of Claim 14, wherein the actuator comprises a switch mounted on the tray.

19. (Original) The instrument panel of Claim 14, wherein the storage drawer front wall comprises a front surface with a handle, and wherein the handle is configured to be grasped by a user to facilitate movement of the storage drawer between open and closed positions.

20. (Original) The instrument panel of Claim 14, wherein the one or more receptacles are cup holders.

21. (Original) The instrument panel of Claim 14, wherein the storage drawer front wall is substantially flush with a front portion of the instrument panel when the storage drawer is in the closed position.

22. (Original) The instrument panel of Claim 14, wherein the storage drawer side walls include respective upper edge portions, and wherein the tray is slidably secured to the upper edge portions of the side walls.

23. (Original) The instrument panel of Claim 14, wherein the storage drawer side walls include respective upper edge portions, and wherein the tray is removably secured to the upper edge portions of the side walls.

24. (Original) The instrument panel of Claim 14, wherein the tray is removably secured to the storage drawer and can be removed from the storage drawer by a user.

25. (Original) A vehicle instrument panel, comprising:

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a storage drawer slidably mounted to the instrument panel and movable within a cavity of the instrument panel between closed and open positions, wherein the drawer comprises a floor, a front wall, a rear wall opposite the front wall, and side walls that extend between the front and rear walls in spaced-apart relationship to define a storage compartment for receiving items therein; and

a tray secured to the storage drawer adjacent the front wall, wherein the tray comprises one or more receptacles for receiving items therein;

wherein the storage drawer front wall comprises an upper portion that pivots outwardly to expose the tray.

26. (Original) The instrument panel of Claim 25, wherein the storage drawer front wall comprises a front surface with a handle, and wherein the handle is configured to be grasped by a user to facilitate movement of the storage drawer between open and closed positions.

27. (Original) The instrument panel of Claim 25, wherein the one or more receptacles are cup holders.

28. (Original) The instrument panel of Claim 25, wherein the storage drawer front wall is substantially flush with a front portion of the instrument panel when the storage drawer is in the closed position.

29. (New) A vehicle instrument panel, comprising:
a storage drawer slidably mounted to the instrument panel and movable within a cavity of the instrument panel between closed and open positions, wherein the drawer comprises a floor, a front wall, a rear wall opposite the front wall, and side walls that extend between the front and rear walls in spaced-apart relationship to define a storage compartment for receiving items therein, wherein the side walls have respective upper edge portions; and
a tray slidably secured to the upper edge portions of the side walls and movable between a hidden position within the instrument panel cavity and an exposed

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position when the storage drawer is in an open position, wherein the tray comprises one or more receptacles for receiving items therein.

30. (New) The instrument panel of Claim 29, wherein the tray is operably connected to the storage drawer such that movement of the storage drawer from the closed position to a partially open position causes the tray to move to the exposed position.

31. (New) The instrument panel of Claim 30, further comprising a stop positioned within the instrument panel cavity, and wherein the stop maintains the tray in the exposed position as the storage drawer continues to move from the partially open position to a fully open position.

32. (New) The instrument panel of Claim 31, wherein the stop comprises a member that is configured to releasably grip a portion of the tray.

33. (New) The instrument panel of Claim 29, wherein the tray is configured to be selectively attached to the storage drawer such that movement of the storage drawer to a fully open position causes the tray to be moved to its exposed position.

34. (New) The instrument panel of Claim 33, further comprising an actuator operably associated with the tray and that is movable between first and second positions, wherein, when the actuator is in the first position, user movement of the storage drawer to an extended position causes movement of the tray to the exposed position, and wherein, when the actuator is in the second position, movement of the tray is independent of user movement of the storage drawer.

35. (New) The instrument panel of Claim 34, wherein the actuator comprises a switch mounted on the tray.

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36. (New) A vehicle instrument panel, comprising:
a storage drawer slidably mounted to the instrument panel and movable within a cavity of the instrument panel between closed and open positions, wherein the drawer comprises a floor, a front wall, a rear wall opposite the front wall, and side walls that extend between the front and rear walls in spaced-apart relationship to define a storage compartment for receiving items therein, wherein the side walls have respective upper edge portions; and
a tray removably and slidably secured to the storage drawer and movable between a hidden position within the instrument panel cavity and an exposed position when the storage drawer is in an open position, wherein the tray comprises one or more receptacles for receiving items therein.
37. (New) The instrument panel of Claim 36, wherein the tray is operably connected to the storage drawer such that movement of the storage drawer from the closed position to a partially open position causes the tray to move to the exposed position.
38. (New) The instrument panel of Claim 37, further comprising a stop positioned within the instrument panel cavity, and wherein the stop maintains the tray in the exposed position as the storage drawer continues to move from the partially open position to a fully open position.
39. (New) The instrument panel of Claim 38, wherein the stop comprises a member that is configured to releasably grip a portion of the tray.
40. (New) The instrument panel of Claim 36, wherein the tray is configured to be selectively attached to the storage drawer such that movement of the storage drawer to a fully open position causes the tray to be moved to its exposed position.
41. (New) The instrument panel of Claim 40, further comprising an actuator operably associated with the tray and that is movable between first and second positions, wherein, when the actuator is in the first position, user movement of the storage

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drawer to an extended position causes movement of the tray to the exposed position, and wherein, when the actuator is in the second position, movement of the tray is independent of user movement of the storage drawer.

42. (New) The instrument panel of Claim 41, wherein the actuator comprises a switch mounted on the tray.

43. (New) A vehicle instrument panel, comprising:
a storage drawer slidably mounted to the instrument panel and movable within a cavity of the instrument panel between closed and open positions, wherein the drawer comprises a floor, a front wall, a rear wall opposite the front wall, and side walls that extend between the front and rear walls in spaced-apart relationship to define a storage compartment for receiving items therein; and

a tray removably and slidably secured to the storage drawer and movable between a hidden position within the instrument panel cavity and an exposed position when the storage drawer is in an open position, wherein the tray comprises one or more receptacles for receiving items therein, and wherein the tray can be removed from the storage drawer by a user.

44. (New) The instrument panel of Claim 43, wherein the tray is operably connected to the storage drawer such that movement of the storage drawer from the closed position to a partially open position causes the tray to move to the exposed position.

45. (New) The instrument panel of Claim 44, further comprising a stop positioned within the instrument panel cavity, and wherein the stop maintains the tray in the exposed position as the storage drawer continues to move from the partially open position to a fully open position.

46. (New) The instrument panel of Claim 45, wherein the stop comprises a member that is configured to releasably grip a portion of the tray.

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47. (New) The instrument panel of Claim 43, wherein the tray is configured to be selectively attached to the storage drawer such that movement of the storage drawer to a fully open position causes the tray to be moved to its exposed position.

48. (New) The instrument panel of Claim 47, further comprising an actuator operably associated with the tray and that is movable between first and second positions, wherein, when the actuator is in the first position, user movement of the storage drawer to an extended position causes movement of the tray to the exposed position, and wherein, when the actuator is in the second position, movement of the tray is independent of user movement of the storage drawer.

49. (New) The instrument panel of Claim 48, wherein the actuator comprises a switch mounted on the tray.